

Notice of Allowability

Application N .

10/099,712

Examin r

Michael P. Mooney

Applicant(s)

TSUCHIDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 6/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/12/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not disclose or render obvious an optical connector for physically coupling a first plurality of parallel optical fiber wires in respective contact with a second plurality of parallel optical fiber wires, and said first plurality of optical fiber wires defining an axis, said optical connector including a plug and coupling member adapted to be fitted with each other; (a) wherein said plug includes a fitting side engageable with said coupling member; a seat for supporting said first plurality of optical fiber wires, said seat having a front end; a bottom plate extending toward said fitting side of said plug beyond said front end of said seat; and a top plate disposed parallel to said bottom plate, and extending toward said fitting side of said plug beyond said front end of said seat; said first plurality of optical fiber wires being supported between said bottom plate and said top plate toward said fitting side of said plug and cantilevered beyond said front end of said seat; and (b) wherein said a coupling member includes a receiving portion for receiving said first plurality of optical fiber wires, said receiving portion including an axis, a first end, and a support region adapted to support said first plurality of optical fiber wires along said axis of said receiving portion said axis of said receiving portion being offset from said axis of said first plurality of optical fiber wires when said first plurality of optical fiber wires is about to be inserted into said receiving portion; said receiving portion further including a guide region provided at said first end thereof and on an extension of said axis of said first

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plurality of optical fiber wires when said first plurality of optical fiber wires is about to be inserted into said receiving portion; and said guide region being suitable, when fitting said plug with said coupling member for contacting said first plurality of optical fiber wires and, as said plug and said coupling member are moved toward each other, to bend and guide said first plurality of optical fiber wires toward said support region; wherein said bottom plate and said top plate sandwich said coupling member therebetween when said plug and said coupling member are fitted together in combination with the rest of claim 5 for the reasons argued by applicant in the Remarks in the Amendment filed on 6/15/04.

It is noted that the claim 5 is allowable because the unique combination of each and every specific element stated in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Mooney whose telephone number is 571-272-2422. The examiner can normally be reached during weekdays, M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1562.


Michael P. Mooney
Examiner
Art Unit 2877


Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877

FGF/mpm
6/24/04